RG104 E-1 Box 157

## Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,

MELTING AND REFINING DEPARTMENT,

Philadelphia, dune 17 de 1889.

Ston. D. M. For

Supermtendrut.

In orsponse to your orquest for an Expension of openion from this Deft. as to whether the best weterests of the Good. would be subservers by the acceptance of any other than the lowest but for concertles to suffly The want, of this mint for The Coming year; I have properly to ask your attrution to the masons which empel me again & ask that The Dresus bis; that of R. Taylor & Son, br accepter.

We are melting and preparing upward of (71 From Tour of Silver Sollar lugot mestal Saily, and This map of metal has to press the cruentele in 3000 ogs Charges, and be safely ladled by depping cups with the moulds. Any muchap here is of senous unfortance

188

To the mother + Refinir, as well as to the Good. - and any modefication of our practice (some without mishap) is a detrement to our work. Under these Cercumstances It should not be thought strange, that the one most in-Brishes as a ferrant of the Govt., should be conservation in making changes without a shong presumption of unprovincent. On this point, I may refer to my letter of June 28th 1888, in which I allusted to Trials meads of The Phorning crueibles. These that wir weads whom my suggestion, with the dole desire of Arlecting the but crueible for our purposes. The moult was as States in that letter and not favorable to any change. If the lowest but be acceptant - that of the Phoning Co. There would be a saving of to of a cent on our To cru-Ceble. We have bought of These Surery Men friend your just closing, 800 prices - and 95 - of small deze for deposit melling room. We would dave about \$ 600 must year

on omeebler, by Taking The Phorning Cos but, - if the Dane number would do our work. The Taylor Co. granders 26 melts for crueble - and our neards Show that they have Excended this Suring the past year The prices of the latter company are matrially higher for Cups, migs oc - The Total defprener brug some \$ 500 on the years Dupply. Ist an unportant part of their exceps is for diffing cups, which come next to Cruebles in temportance as & quality. The loades cup must withstand the nip of the tougs, and carry safely The Saily output & The mould, otherwise burns & increases dwrife. Outseits of Crueibles & Couper, the other articles are flep importance as to quality & price. But I so not huagin that any concern would care for There apart from The brusing articles, for which I have given my masons for a prefermer. I have then contien at length, write a Jesine

Hint of the United States at Philadelphia,

To make it servent, why it is possible without favoration or prejudice to prefer an article well known to us by use, over another not favorably known, some at a slightly less price, when the magnitude of our operations, and the values we handle, make the apparent daving appear of each trifling dignificance.

Resputfulla

S. X Jutile

melhr & Refuin

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia, Melting and Refining Department, Philadelphia, June 17, 1889

Hon. D.M. Fox Superintendent

Sir

In response to your request for an expression of opinion from this Dept. as to whether the best interests of the Govt. would be subserved by the acceptance of any other than the lowest bid for crucibles to supply the wants of this Mint for the coining year; I have respectfully to ask your attention to the reasons which impel me again to ask that the second bid: that of R. Taylor & Son, be accepted.

We are melting and preparing upwards of (7) seven tons of silver dollar ingot metal daily, and this map of metal has to pass the crucible in 3000 ozs. charges, and be safely ladled by dipping cups into the moulds. Any mishap here is of serious importance to the Melter & Refiner, as well as to the Govt. – and any modification of our practice (even without mishap) is a detriment to our work. Under these circumstances it should not be thought strange, that the one most interested as a servant of the Govt., should be conservation in making changes without a strong presumption of improvement. On this point, I may refer to my letter of June 28th, 1888, in which I alluded to trials made of the Phoenix crucibles. These trials were made upon my suggestion, with the sole desire of selecting the best crucible for our purposes. The result was as stated in that letter and not favorable to any change. If the lowest bid be accepted – that of the Phoenix Co. there would be a saving of 7/10 of a cent each on our "70 crucible. We have bought of these during the final year just closing, 800 pieces – and 95 of small size for deposit melting room. We would save about \$6.00 next year on crucibles, by taking the Phoenix Co.'s bid, - if the same number would do our work. The Taylor Co. guarantee 26 melts per crucible – and our records show they have exceeded this during the past year. The prices of the latter company are materially higher for cups, rings &c. The total difference being some \$500 on the years supply. Yet an important part of this excess is for dipping cups, which come next to crucible in importance as the quality. The loaded cup must withstand the "nip" of the tongs, and carry safely the daily output of the moulds, otherwise burns & increased sweeps. Outside of crucibles & cups, the other articles are of less importance as to quality & price. But I do no inquire that any concern would care for these apart from the leading articles, for which I have given my reasons for a preference.

I have this written at length, with a desire to make it evident, why it is possible, without favoritism or prejudice to prefer an article well known, even at a slightly less price, when this magnitude of our operations, and the values we handle, make the apparent saving appear of such trifling significance.

Respectfully, D.K. Tuttle, Melter & Refiner